



## Avionics heads bell ringing campaign

By Lanorris Askew  
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Folks in the Avionics Management Directorate are putting down their oscilloscopes and picking up bells to help lead Robins in a charitable bell-ringing medley.

To help the Salvation Army and the local community, Avionics employees are coordinating the first organized base-wide bell ringing charity event, according to Capt. Brian Edmunds, Avionics Management Directorate executive officer.

Edmunds said the call for volunteers came from the Salvation Army about a month ago and they answered.

"We receive a lot of support from our local community and with just a small contribution like volunteering to be bell ringers, we can make a real difference," he said.

Edmunds said that although all the volunteer slots have been filled, volunteers are still welcome to sign up in case emergencies such as last-minute cancellations due to illness or other reasons occur.

The bell ringing began Nov. 29 and will continue through Dec. 23. Robin's volunteers will be stationed at the Kmart on Watson Boulevard. Hours for volunteers are Mondays through Fridays from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Jim Grant, of the C-5 contracting division and local Salvation Army board member, said the money raised will go to feed local needy families throughout the holidays as well as buy toys and food for gift baskets.

"We are a major employer in Middle Georgia and because God has blessed our area with good jobs, it's important that we give back," Grant said. "All of the money raised stays in the local area."

Grant said he is very pleased with the response from Avionics.

"They have done a fantastic job. When we were looking for an organization to head this drive, they picked up the ball and ran with it."

According to the Salvation Army Web site, [www.salvationarmyusa.org/www\\_usn.nsf](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/www_usn.nsf),

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## 'Oh, Christmas tree'

Many Team Robins family members gathered outside the Robins Chapel Dec. 5 to celebrate the lighting of the base Christmas tree. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel Nigolian welcomed those who attended and read scripture before introducing Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander. Wetekam said a few words to usher in the season, and the Robins Elementary School Chorus performed a number of songs from "December in our Town," a play they performed Monday and Tuesday at the school. Santa Claus arrived on a fire truck courtesy of the Robins Air Force Base Fire Department with gifts for each child in attendance. Above, Angie Lingar holds her 18-month-old daughter Logan as festivities come to a close. At right, Robins Elementary School Chorus members perform.

U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



## Two out of three isn't bad

By Lanorris Askew  
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Col. Charles R. Davis, F-15 system program director, said his Team Eagle is no "one-hit wonder" and has proven so by adding yet another accolade to its inventory.

Leadership, teamwork and the determination to provide top-notch service to the war fighter has led the Robins team to the 2002 Gen. Bernard A. Schriever Award as the best Program Executive Office in Air Force Materiel Command.

The award, named for the first commander of the Air Force Systems Command, recognizes an organization's leadership, innovation and achievements that result in marked program success.

Led by Davis, the team encompasses all the military and contractor programs that operate or provide support for the F-15.

"This award was truly a team effort with Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Aeronautical Systems Center, Boeing Company, Air Force acquisition and Air Combat Command," he said.

Davis said this is the second time in three years that the team has come out on top in the running for the Shriever award.

"Our award is for outstanding performance by a program office team," he said. "What did it for us in terms of winning the award was the exceptional teamwork that we have between a very large F-15 team."

Davis said this team extends across a couple of directorates here and out to the development system shop at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, the requirements team, Air Combat Command and a variety of contractors.

Davis said the team was able to focus on "hard results" for the F-15 fleet when writing up the award. There were so many achievements that "the award almost wrote itself," he said.

Davis said that the team has been able to deliver results to F-15 fleets across the world.

"Listed in the nomination were some clear improvements

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## ICAPP energizes work force

By Holly J. Logan  
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Fifteen engineers from Robins Air Force Base have improved information technology skills thanks to a new partnership program with Macon State College.

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, and other base officials said Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) is a growing partnership that is very important to the future of Robins and its work force.

Under ICAPP, Macon State College provides an intensive, six-month information technology program to help currently employed Robins engineers with

high-tech airborne systems and other software technologies in their field.

ICAPP is a state-sponsored project intended to produce more software specialists for one of the nation's key defense logistics centers. Robins' first group, made up of engineers from varying information technology backgrounds, graduated at a ceremony here Dec. 2.

ICAPP graduate Bobby Brown, an electronics engineer in the Maintenance Software Division, said he gained valuable knowledge and skills through the program and highly recommends others participate if given the opportunity.

"When I graduated with my degree, I

**See ICAPP ... Page A-5**



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. James Hart Jr.

## Pumping gas

Staff Sgt. Dave Coleman, KC-135 boom operator with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, refuels an EPAF F-16 during a refueling mission over Afghanistan.

## Make free videos

Sony and CBS are teaming again this year to bring airmen and other military members "Message from America." Go to any Circuit City between now and Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and record a five-minute message to a loved one. Circuit City will give a CD that can be mailed to a family member overseas.





# Renter’s insurance a must

By **Melissa Maldonado**  
**Robins Legal Office**

In making the case for renter’s insurance, the old axiom rings true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

While most homeowner’s personal property is insured through their homeowner’s insurance, many renters don’t insure their personal property because it usually is not required and they believe it will be too expensive. Consider the total cost of everything you own including your computer, clothing, television, stereo equipment and furniture. How much would it cost to replace everything? That’s a hefty price to pay at a moment’s notice.

Renter’s can insure their personal property against fire, theft, flood or other disasters relatively cheaply. Typically, \$100 to \$200 a year will buy \$12,000 to \$15,000 of replacement cost coverage for a renter’s personal belongings and \$100,000 of liability insurance.

Most types of Renter’s insurance will protect personal belongings damaged through no fault of your own and provide liability protection for damage to another person or their property.

Military members living in base housing should also consider renter’s insurance. The Air Force limits reimbursement for personal possessions that are stolen or damaged, and provides no reimbursement for damage caused by a member’s negligence or willful misconduct.

In fact, the Air Force may seek reimbursement from a military member for damage caused to government quarters or property. For damage caused by a member’s simple negligence, a member’s liability is typically limited to one month’s pay. However, for damage caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct, there is no limit on liability.

Having renter’s insurance can protect a military member in base housing by recouping expenses the Air Force will not pay and protect the service member from liability.

Congress enacted the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees’ Claims Act to allow the Air Force to compensate active-duty members and civilian employees for certain types of loss, damage or destruction of personal property.

However, this act doesn’t provide insurance coverage and isn’t designed to make the United States Air Force a total insurer for the personal property of its members.

As with all types of insurance, the hope is that it will never need to be used. But renter’s insurance can be obtained cheaply and provide protection for personal property as well as personal liability. Having an effective renter’s insurance policy will minimize the emotional and financial setbacks caused by most types of disasters.

Should you have any questions about renter’s insurance, contact your insurance company or come by the legal office in Bldg. 215 for legal assistance.

*Editor’s note: The claims division can be reached at 926-9276.*

## ROBINS BRIEFS

### Local settlement agreement underway

Earlier this year, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command and American Federation of Government Employees Council 214 reached an agreement on a survey by which employees may request lower graded skill codes for lower-level work performed since Jan. 13, 1996.

Beginning this week, all AFGE Bargaining Unit Employees at Robins Air Force Base will receive a survey package from their supervisor. For an employee to identify and request credit for lower grade level work he or she believes was performed, the employee must complete a claim form that will be attached to the survey letter. An instruction sheet will also be provided. Completed survey packages must be returned to the employee’s supervisor within 30 business days of receipt. In turn, these packages will be forwarded to the civilian personnel office so that eligibility for additional skill coding can be determined.

Any bargaining unit employee who does not receive a survey package within the next week should contact his immediate supervisor or organizational resource advisor. Questions concerning this matter may be directed to AFGE Local 987 at 922-5758.

### AAFES closed

All Army Air Force Exchange Services facilities will close at 6 p.m. Dec. 20 for an employee function. This includes the “Robins Theater,” which will have no show that day.

### Former secretary dies

John L. McLucas, Secretary of the Air Force from July 19, 1973, to

Nov. 12, 1975, died of respiratory failure Dec. 1 at Inova Mount Vernon hospital in Alexandria, Va.

### Senior officer announcement

Col. Sheri W. Andino will be leaving her position as director of safety with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Safety Office to take a position as the deputy of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council on Issues and Actions at Air Force at the Pentagon.

### Health care meeting

Col. George P. Johnson, 78th Medical Group commander, will host the quarterly 78th Medical Group Health Care Consumer’s Advisory Council Meeting Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Smith Community Center ballroom. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Lottie Moon at 327-8027.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Louis Korbelt, electronics mechanic, receives a picture from Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander. In the framed picture are Korbelt, Wetekam and Robert T. Mason, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. Mason had recognized Korbelt during a previous visit to the center.

## Outstanding performers

Two Maintenance Directorate employees were reminded how much their hard work and dedication is appreciated.

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, presented Louis Korbelt and Teresa Maddox with a commander’s coin Dec. 2 for their outstanding performance.

Maddox also received the first Maintenance Directorate Avionics and Instruments Division coin from Col. Skip Collins, division chief. She received the coin for her efforts in implementing Lean principles, which increased production by 300 percent.

Louis is an electronics mechanic in the communications and navigation section. Maddox is a first-line supervisor.



Teresa Maddox shows the two coins she received earlier this month for her performance as a first-line supervisor. Maddox received the first Maintenance Directorate Avionics and Instruments Division coin in addition to a commander’s coin.

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# C-141 personnel strive to Lean PDM process

By 1st Lt. Kim Kallstrom  
MABJ Lean Change Agent

When Lean was first introduced to the Maintenance Directorate Aircraft Division C-141/C-17 production branch, MABJ, many were uncertain it would work.

With less than two years left before the C-141 program was scheduled to come to a close, performance indicators were headed in the wrong direction and the organization’s attitude seemed to be it is too late to change.

Some weren’t sure MABJ had the motivation to succeed. Fortunately the MABJ work force proved to not only have the motivation, but the drive and determination to make the remaining months of the C-141’s life at Robins a success.

At first, Lean was met with grumbling and cynicism. A year and 24 Lean events later, it’s a different story.

Sure there are still skeptics. However, they get fewer and farther between. Today they are replaced by curious people with ideas for improvement. Most of the ideas are not new. Many have been submitted before with no result or have been stored in the owner’s head in wait of an opportunity to put thoughts into actions.

MABJ employees are starting to see that Lean provides that opportunity. Lean brings together the true subject matter experts – the employees who perform the tasks – and lets them decide what needs to be improved and how to accomplish it.

In just a year, with the overwhelming support of supervision, C-141 personnel have painted and 6Sed — sort, straighten, scrub, safety, standardize, and sustain — their eight docks.

They have applied standard work to the fuel tank repair process and enhanced the quality process.

In October, an event was held to streamline the functional test process. As a result, MABJ is establishing a transition cell to accomplish the rigging and operations checks prior to functional test.

By Leaning this process, estimates show a 56 percent reduction in the time it currently takes for an aircraft to accomplish these tasks and proceed through functional test.

On the other side of the house, the C-17 work force has 6Sed its dock, applied standard work to the entire work package and streamlined the “Over and Above” approval process.

They reduced the necessary number of aircraft tows by 66 percent and built panel carts to increase the efficiency of removing, storing and replacing panels. They are currently in the process of placing tools, hazardous materials, hardware



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp  
A C-141 rests in the hangar while employees with the C-141 System Program Office run a scheduled maintenance. At right, a member of the C-17 System Program Office works on a C-17 winglet.

and consumables at the point-of-use.

This initiative will reduce the time wasted obtaining these items by 95 percent. The C-17 has allowed a unique opportunity to apply Lean to a program as it is being established. The 30-person C-17 work force accounts for half of MABJ’s 24 Lean projects to date and has truly made Lean a way of life.

The C-17 program thrives, and with the help of Lean will continue along the path of success during its tenure at Robins. However, the last C-141 to undergo PDM at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center will fly off into the wild blue

yonder in 2003, and the dying bird will eventually go in peace. The MABJ work force is determined to make the bird as Lean as possible before that day arrives.





# Indispensable:

## Reservists essential to Air Force mission

By Lanorris Askew  
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Lt. Col. George McHutchison loves his day job as a C-130 structural engineer, but finds his part-time job as a Reserve individual mobilization aug-mentee, or IMA, just as rewarding.

McHutchison serves as an aircraft battle damage engi-neer, a tough position to fill in the IMA field.

“The people I work for have a lot of confidence in me and treat me just as if I were active duty,” he said. “Though I haven’t really deployed in a wartime situa-tion as an IMA yet, I have had a lot of deployments where I have been able to use my expertise and prepare for any future wartime deploy-ments.”

The days of IMAs as stand-ins in times of turbu-lence or increased work are an idea of the p a s t . According to Anne Perry, Reserve advi-sor to the commander, IMAs are now indis-pensable.

“No longer are IMAs just nice to have c o m m o d i -ties,” said Perry. “They have become essential to mission effectiveness.”

The role of the IMA has become essential to the Air Force mission in the past five years due to downsizing and world events.

“After the events of Sept. 11, we had IMAs come in and provide support in the back shops as well as sup-ported mission in countless other ways,” she said.

McHutchison is a good example.

### An extra hand

As an IMA, his job is to augment the active duty in a mobility position and deploy to repair battle-damaged air-craft or perform depot level repair.

“We work on all aircraft that the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center has engi-neering authority over,” he said. “We deploy to provide in-theater engineering sup-port.”

McHutchison is contract-ed as a C-130 engineer at Hurlburt Field, Fla. He has more than 21 years of aircraft engineering experience.

“I’ve been and IMA since 1994 after 13 years service as an active duty engineer,” he said.

“This job has a high learn-ing curve and requires a lot of dedication,” he said. “It’s not for everyone, but can be very reward-ing. It’s just a question of whether you can make the c o m m i t -ment.”

Lt. Col. George McHutchison  
C-130 structural engineer

Many have gained valuable expertise or technical skills from those assignments and from their civilian careers.

The Air Force is able to take advantage of those resources in a cost effective manner through the IMA pro-gram, Perry said.

The responsibility of administering the IMA pro-gram is shared between the active and reserve structure.

There are 2,079 IMAs work-ing alongside their Air Force Materiel Command active duty counterparts in almost all career fields.

According to Perry, after Sept. 11, 2001, more that 100 IMAs were recalled at Robins.

“They were recalled from areas across the base and assisted in the day-to-day mission requirements,” she said. “Some of the career fields recalled included civil engineers, security forces, supply personnel, public affairs, fuels and others.”

By definition the IMA is a member of the Selected Reserve – an element of the United States Air Force Reserve’s Ready Reserve. They are usually assigned to active duty Air Force units in order to support contingency operations or pre/post mobi-

lization requirements.

According to Col. Travis Rattan, mobilization assistant to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, the IMAs are the first-line back-up for the Air Force in the event of war, national emergency or natural disaster. They are unique in that mode of operation.

He said they conduct their service lives outside the tra-ditional organizational struc-ture of the unit reservists in conjunction with the needs of their own active duty units. IMAs perform duty through-out the year in lieu of the one weekend a month that the tra-ditional Reservists serve.

“We don’t have a set duty time,” he said. “When our people make up their IMA

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U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Col. Travis Rattan, mobilization assistant to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander said IMAs are the first-line back-up for the Air Force.

# College offers new certification

Community College of the Air Force recently announced the details of the new Airframe and Powerplant Certification Program.

This program is being offered to individuals in specific career fields and will allow those individuals to pursue this certification while actively working on the job.

Eligible members may enroll in the program via the Internet at [www.maxwell.af.mil/](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/)

[au/ccaf/student.htm](http://au/ccaf/student.htm).

Individuals are encouraged to access the Web site as it is loaded with many details about this program including a frequently asked questions section.

In addition, they may e-mail the Air Force Airframe and Powerplant team at [ccaf.faa@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:ccaf.faa@maxwell.af.mil) or call Master Sgt. Breeding, Tech. Sgt. Doss, or Tech. Sgt. Munn at DSN 493-5937.

Reserve Personnel Center Office of Public Affairs, the IMA program began in the late 1940s and grew out of the Army Air Forces’ first attempts to train individual Reservists in the period between World War II and the Korean War.

Army Air Force leaders felt the need to maintain a large pool of trained personnel who could be called upon in the event of a war or national emergency.

In July 1946, the Army Air Force’s plan for training both Reserve units and individual Reservists was approved. Several years later, the Air Force chief of staff directed all major command missions to incorporate specific Reserve training responsibilities, and the Air Staff published a directive on the assignment, administration and training of individual reservists at active-duty bases.

## IMA

### Continued from A-4

work schedules, they coordinate between their civilian and military supervisors.”

Rattan said their scheduling is always done to maximize production based on mission needs.

As with other Reservists, the IMA must leave behind his or her regular job when fulfilling service requirements.

“The IMA leaves behind a whole line of people who must be supportive and understanding of the role they play,” he said. “IMAs enter this field because they want to. They have a commitment to the mission and patriotism to their country.”

According to information from the Air

## ICAPP

### Continued from A-1

didn’t have any computer programming experience,” he said. “Through ICAPP, I was exposed to three different programming languages: visual basics, C++, and assembly language.”

Arthur Borbor, electronics engineer for H-53 helicopters, said he is very proud of the collaborative efforts of Macon State College and Robins.

“It was great being a part of such a successful program,” he said. “I learned a great deal about how to become a more productive employee for the base.”

Wetekam characterized the joint endeavor as a “perfect partnership” with benefits for all involved.

“How we train our work force of the future is something that is very important to us at Robins,” he said. “The demographics of our work force are changing and a large percentage of our work force is, or will soon be, retirement-eligible. Educational programs that maybe weren’t as important 10 years ago, are taking on a renewed sense of importance at Robins as we look to the future.”

David Bell, president of Macon State College, echoed Wetekam’s remarks concerning the partnership and said ICAPP will help the college serve the Middle Georgia area by supporting one of its largest economical influences.

“Our mission at Macon State College is to serve this region; and one of the largest and most important components of this region is Robins,” he said. “Being able

to educate their people in the area of information technology – an area where we have extraordinary strength – will help those in this field better help Robins by being more productive. This is something we are proud to do for Robins.”

Tom Christian, acting chief of software engineering at Robins, said ICAPP brings reciprocal benefits, both short and long-term.

“In the short-term, we have 15 people who have more skills and abilities than before,” he said.

“One of the long-term benefits of the program is that we can learn more about what Macon State

College has to offer and they can learn more about our needs.”

Steve Bowen, electronics engineering supervisor at Robins, said he looks forward to seeing the opportunities of ICAPP unfold in the near future.

“ICAPP has made some necessary, unavailable software engineering skills and training accessible with Macon State College being local,” he said. “A lot of our people come to Robins with different engineering backgrounds. This program has allowed our engineers to develop new skills and multiply their abilities.”

Arthur Borbor  
electronics engineer for H-53 helicopters

*“It was great being a part of such a successful program. I learned a great deal about how to become a more productive employee for the base.”*

# Savings bonds make great gifts

By Rebecca Yull

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Choosing the right gift for someone can be a challenge. Sometimes the best gift is one that people can use years down the line.

U.S. Savings Bonds are one such gift. They keep growing and giving for years. Just as sure as the recipient may be in need, that bond will be there to help.

“They can be a great gift for anyone,” said Capt. Paul Fidler, the 2002 U.S. Savings Bond representative for Robins Air Force Base. “And you can buy them in multiple increments so they pretty much fit in anyone’s budget.”

Bonds can be purchased for as little \$25 or as much as \$10,000. Different bond series mature at different rates. Series EE bonds, sold at half the face value, earn a variable market-based rate.

## Two

### Continued from A-1

in operating statistics of the fleet in terms of mission capable hours and rates, fielding new software and new capabilities fielded ahead of schedule which doesn’t happen too often in the acquisition world,” said Davis. “You can measure us by those benchmarks.”

Davis mentioned multiple feats by the F-15 SPO, which continues to lend first-rate war fighter support. Some of these that went into the nomination packet were the restructuring of F-15 operational data collection, which established a single focal point to collect operational data, analyze, and act to prevent spare parts from becoming fleet critical mission impaired capability awaiting parts drivers.

The result was mission incapable hours being reduced by 250,000 hours since September 2001, and 74 more jets available to users.

Another was the SPO’s integration of

The Series I bond is an inflation-indexed savings bond that guarantees a real rate of return more than inflation. They are sold at face value.

They make money, are guaranteed and secure and if they’re lost they can be replaced, Fidler said.

“If you want to start someone in the process of investing, they’re a great way to start,” he said.

Savings bonds can be purchased at most financial institutions. They can take up to three weeks to arrive in the mail. A convenient way to avoid a time delay is to have the bank send the bond directly to the recipient.

Bonds are also available for purchase via the Web. Go to [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov), click on “Savings Bonds Direct” for secure, online credit card purchase of either series bond.

the LITENING II targeting pod capability on the F-15E while reducing costs from \$13 million to \$2 million and achieving operational capability in 90 days from a standing start.

The SPO also rapidly responded to an Air Force level tasking to accelerate Link-16 critical communication capabilities for the

F-15E in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Link-16 is a data link that immediately provides the war fighter with precisely tailored command, control, and target information.

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, congratulated Davis and his team.

“Long before coming to Robins, I had long held the F-15 program office in high regard,” he said. “I’m not surprised in the least at this

latest accomplishment. This recognition is well deserved, hard earned and speaks volumes to the devotion to duty and performance that have held the team in good stead. I salute everyone whose efforts built a steady record of excellence in the F-15 program office.”

*“This recognition is well deserved, hard earned and speaks volumes to the devotion to duty and performance that have held the team in good stead.”*

Maj. Gen. Donald J.

Wetekam

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center  
commander

## Bell

### Continued from A-1

the idea for this charity drive was begun in December 1891 by a Salvation Army captain in San Francisco who resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner to the area’s poor. When he couldn’t come up with an idea of how to pay for the food, he thought back to his days as a sailor and remembered how a large pot was used to collect charitable donations on a wharf in Liverpool, England.

This began what is now a holiday tradition in many countries around the world.

People who would like to volunteer this season should contact Edmunds at 926-3363.



# Christmas: Celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth

*Editor’s Note: With the different religious symbols that arise during the holiday season, it’s not uncommon for one, who is not a practicing theologian, to become confused about the meaning of all that surrounds holiday celebrations.*

*Throughout the holiday season, the Robins Rev-Up will bring you articles intended to broaden your knowledge of holiday celebrations and customs of the various religions that exist today.*

**By Holly J. Logan**  
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For some, Christmas merely means gifts under a decorated tree, but for others, it’s a time to celebrate Jesus Christ’s birth.

From books to Web sites, people from around the world have varying, historically based accounts of the origins of Christmas. According to the Web site Christmas on the Net at [www.holidays.net/christmas](http://www.holidays.net/christmas), and others, winter festivals date back as far as 4,000 B.C. The significance of the Dec. 25 date of Christmas is greatly debated among those who have researched its origin.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Austin Reeves places an ornament on the Christmas tree at the Robins Air Force Base Library during story time Tuesday.

Author, Greg Dues, in his book, “Christmas,” said one theory proposes that Christians began celebrating the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25 as a way to take attention away from the pagan festivals occurring at that time.

Dues said it was thought that this would “challenge people to turn from worship of the material sun to the adoration of Christ, the truly unconquered light of the world.” The history of this holiday varies from theory to theory, but the heart of its existence remains the celebration of Jesus’ birth.

Chaplains from the

Robins Chapel are expecting more than 800 people to attend Catholic Mass services and more than 400 people to attend Protestant services during Christmas.

Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis Hutson, senior Protestant chaplain with the 78th Air Base Wing, said along with the usual worship services for Christmas, chaplains are available for military members with special needs during the holiday.

“We offer our constant prayer for both the troops at Robins and those who are deployed during Christmas,” he said. “We aren’t doing too much for the military members this year since the different units and surrounding community are doing so much for them.”

The Protestant chapel has given designated offerings of nearly \$1,600 to the 19th Air Refueling Group’s Christmas project, Toys for Tots and \$1,600 to the Samaritan’s Purse Ministry.

With the perceived commercialization of Christmas in recent years, it’s easy for people to lose sight of the intended purpose of the holiday – the celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth. Even so, many Christians have kept its religious focus.

## Unmasking holiday traditions

**By Holly J. Logan**  
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Christmas trees, mistletoe and the nativity are all part of Christmas celebrations, but some people are unaware of their historical significance.

Upon examination of different historically based theories and explanations surrounding some of the most well known Christmas traditions and icons, it’s time to uncover the mystery.

**Christmas Tree**

The first accounts of a Christmas tree came from the Germans, according to Greg Dues, author of the book, “Christmas.” The first Christmas tree, a fir tree, was called, “Paradise Tree.” The “Paradise tree” was typically used in Christmas plays during the early centuries, but over time, it became part of people’s Christmas home décor.

According to Christmas history accounts at the Web site [www.essort.com](http://www.essort.com), the tradition of decorating the Christmas tree originated with the Germans. Prince Albert of Germany, the husband of Queen Victoria, set up a marvelous tree in Windsor Castle. Servants trimmed the tree using candles, sugared fruits and small wrapped presents. At first, Christmas trees were just big enough to place on tabletops. By the end of the 1800s, floor to ceiling trees were used to decorate at Christmas, covered in hand-crafted and commercially manufactured decorations.

**Nativity**

The Nativity scene depicts the birthplace of Jesus Christ – Mary, Joseph, three wise men, shepherds and various animals in the stable where Jesus was born. The story of the birth of Jesus can be found in the Bible in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.

**Gift-Giving**

Some may have thought gift giving was something of modern time, but it actually dates back to the Roman festival of

Saturnalia, which included the exchanging of presents and merriment, said Dues.

A few historians have even traced this tradition’s origin back to the gifts brought by the wise men for Jesus when he was born. The exchange of gifts was part of their tradition during this season.

**Mistletoe**

It’s hung over doorways during the holiday season with the traditional kiss to take place underneath its greenery, but what is behind the holiday season custom of the mistletoe?

The details of its explanation vary from person to person, but the essence of its truth is common.

Mistletoe, a parasitic plant that grows on trees, is native to North America and can most likely be found growing on trees from Florida to New Jersey. According to the Web site [www.holidayspot.com](http://www.holidayspot.com), mistletoe has been a part of European folklore for many years. It was thought to bestow life and fertility; a protection against poison and an aphrodisiac.

Kissing under the mistletoe was first associated with the Roman festival of Saturnalia and later with primitive marriage rites, according to several different Web sites tracking its origin. In Scandinavia, mistletoe is considered the “plant of peace” under which enemies could make a truce and arguing spouses could reconcile. Later, the eighteenth century English created the “kissing ball” made of mistletoe. The kissing ball held a similar custom. The kiss could mean deep romance or a lasting friendship. In the past, kisses took place under the mistletoe mainly around New Year’s.

Today, kisses can be exchanged under the mistletoe any time during the holiday season.

While these are merely a few on the many holiday icons and traditions whose origins have boggled the mind, people may now know that there is a reason for the traditions of the season.

# Birth

Continued from A-6

Carol Bales, budget analyst for the logistics directorate at Robins, said Christmas was a time of singing carols and receiving visits from Santa Claus when she was younger, but now she views it much differently.

“Since I was a little girl, I can remember Christmas being a very special holiday,” she said. “It meant being an angel in the Christmas play at church and being able to eat goodies that were baked only at Christmas time. Now, in my life, I believe that Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. We should take this time to share God’s love for the world and remember those who are less fortunate.”

As many have said, Christmas is also a time to make special memories with family and friends amidst Christmas lights, holly and mistletoe. And several people from Team Robins will be sharing the season with loved ones in this fashion.

Lorie Snipes, aircraft program controller for the logistics directorate, said she and her family would be enjoying their Christmas traditions of family get-togethers and showing their appreciation for one another through gift giving.

“Christmas is the time we celebrate Jesus’ birth,” she said. “For me, it will always mean good food, family and friends as well.”

Snipes said one of her family’s favorite traditions is to cook a large breakfast, complete with melted cheese over homemade biscuits, country ham and eggs, followed by opening gifts.

“Every year, I usually leave a few previously hidden gifts from “Santa” unwrapped under the tree,” she said. “My three sons range in age from 7 to 15, but they still enjoy this part of Christmas.”

Whether the spirit of Christmas finds you in a prayer of thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ or tearing into gifts left by the old man from the North Pole, Christmas is a special time to celebrate with the ones you love.



Submissions to the Rev-Up are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication in that Friday’s paper. Contact one of the following people to get news in the Rev-Up:

- Geoff Janes, editor, [vance.janes@robins.af.mil](mailto:vance.janes@robins.af.mil)
- Rebecca Yull, associate editor, [rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil](mailto:rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil)
- Lanorris Askew, reporter, [lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil](mailto:lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil)
- Sue Sapp, photographer, [sue.sapp@robins.af.mil](mailto:sue.sapp@robins.af.mil)



# Robins signs MOA with county schools

■ Agreement to help ease students into new schools

By Lanorris Askew  
lanorris.askew@robins.sf.mil

Moving from place to place is a part of life for the military child, which often means leaving friends and other familiar faces behind. To help ease that transition, Robins Air Force Base and the Houston County School system have come up with a way to make life a little less stressful for new students. With the signing of a memorandum of understanding Dec. 9, Robins became the first Air Force Base in the state to undertake such a program. “This is a memorandum of understanding between the county school system and the base for the transition of current secondary high school students,” said Col. Bonnie Cirrincione, 78th Air Base Wing commander. “Because transition is so frequent to military families, it’s a document that allows us to do some preplanning with those students so they can understand the school system that they are about to enter.” For example, Cirrincione said students will be able to write their new schools and correspond with the coaches or clubs they may be interest-



U.S. Air Force photo by Roland Leach

Charles Holloway, superintendent of Houston County Schools, Col. Bonnie Cirrincione, 78th Air Base Wing Commander, and Skip Dawkins, chairman of Houston County Board of Education, sign the memorandum of understanding that will help ease transitions for military students. Houston County Board of Education superintendent said this isn’t a new idea as several other counties in the state and more than 100 systems across the country have signed similar agreements. Holloway said the idea is to keep the school environment conducive to learning. The agreement will become effective immediately.

# Center has banner year with small business

Robins Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center achieved its small business program goals in total small business awards, small disadvantaged business awards, and awards to women-owned small businesses. Dollars awarded in each of these areas set records for the center. According to Jim Lovett, small business office director, the center received an overall grade of “B” for program performance. “The record numbers in virtually all goal categories is truly phenomenal, especially the percentage increase of dollars compared to the previous year,” Lovett said. “A banner year like this doesn’t happen by accident. My staff and I are very appreciative for the teamwork of those organizations and individuals who helped the center reach such pinnacles.” In fiscal year 2002, the WR-ALC small business base dollars totaled \$2.76 billion. Awards to disadvantaged businesses totaled \$139.9 million, nearly double the amount awarded in fiscal year 2001. Of that amount, \$85.7 million were section 8(a) awards and that figure

WR-ALC FY02 Small Business Performance			
Small Business Base was \$2.76 billion.			
Category	Goal	Performance	
Small Business	15.8 percent	20.7 percent	
Small Disadvantaged	3.4 percent	5.1 percent	
Woman-Owned	1.7 percent	1.7 percent	
HUBZone	2.5 percent	0.7 percent	
Service-Disabled Veteran	3.0 percent	0.02 percent	
WR-ALC Small Business Program performance comparison			
Category	FY01	FY02	Increase
Small Business Base	\$2.14 B	\$2.76 B	29 percent
Small Business	\$399.4 M	\$571.1 M	43 percent
Small Disadvantaged	\$74.1 M	\$139.9 M	89 percent
Woman-Owned	\$23.2 M	\$45.6 M	97 percent
HUBZone	\$10.0 M	\$20.0 M	100 percent
Service-Disabled Vet	N/A	\$0.6 M	N/A

is another record setter. For the fourth consecutive year, Robins led Oklahoma City-ALC and Ogden-ALC in the percentage of awards in all small business program categories. While the fiscal year 2002 scorecard is an exemplary one, Lovett is not one to rest



Courtesy photo

Erin Campbell, certified recreation therapist, Claude King and Russell Harrison are all smiles as Harrison, who served in World War II, opens his gift bag.

# Playing Santa Claus

By Tommie M. Mack  
Logistics Management Directorate

The Logistics Management Directorate’s Technical Management Support Section spread a little cheer by playing Santa Claus to 26 patients in the Carl Vinson Memorial VA hospital nursing home unit Dec. 10. “Adopting a ward at Carl Vinson for our Christmas project this year was a good way to show our appreciation and support of our nation’s military members,” Tony Yarbrough, acting division chief for Logistics Data and Systems Support, said. “These men and women sacrificed so much for their country, and unfortunately, they are often under-appreciated and some may be forgotten entirely.” Erin Campbell and Cecelia Jones, hospital staff members who helped coordinate the project, agreed that the show of community interest was a real morale booster for the veterans. “So many of our patients have no family left, and having visitors like this helps them feel less alone,” Campbell said. The project was funded with individual cash donations and proceeds from various fund-raisers held throughout the past year. Each patient received a gift bag filled with cookies, activity books, socks, caps and toiletry items. Additionally, a VCR, fruit basket and laundry detergent were given to the unit as a whole.



# Holiday time can be stressful for children

By Kathleen Vaillancourt  
Hanscom Family Advocacy Office

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — As the holidays approach, parents are not the only ones who feel the demands of the season. Children also feel a rising anxiety as visitors, holiday events and marathon shopping outings disrupt their normal routines. Military families may have added stressors by having a family member deployed or getting ready for an impending separation, by long work hours and by distance from extended family. Children are sensitive to their parents’ feelings and can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Little ones are especially in danger of over-stimulation. Too much “fun” can upset children who may become grouchy and restless. Listed below are some tips that may help children better cope with the holidays:

- Try keeping to a regular schedule for meals, naps and bedtime.
- Involve your child in holiday preparations. Even the youngest child can put bows on gifts or cut out a sugar

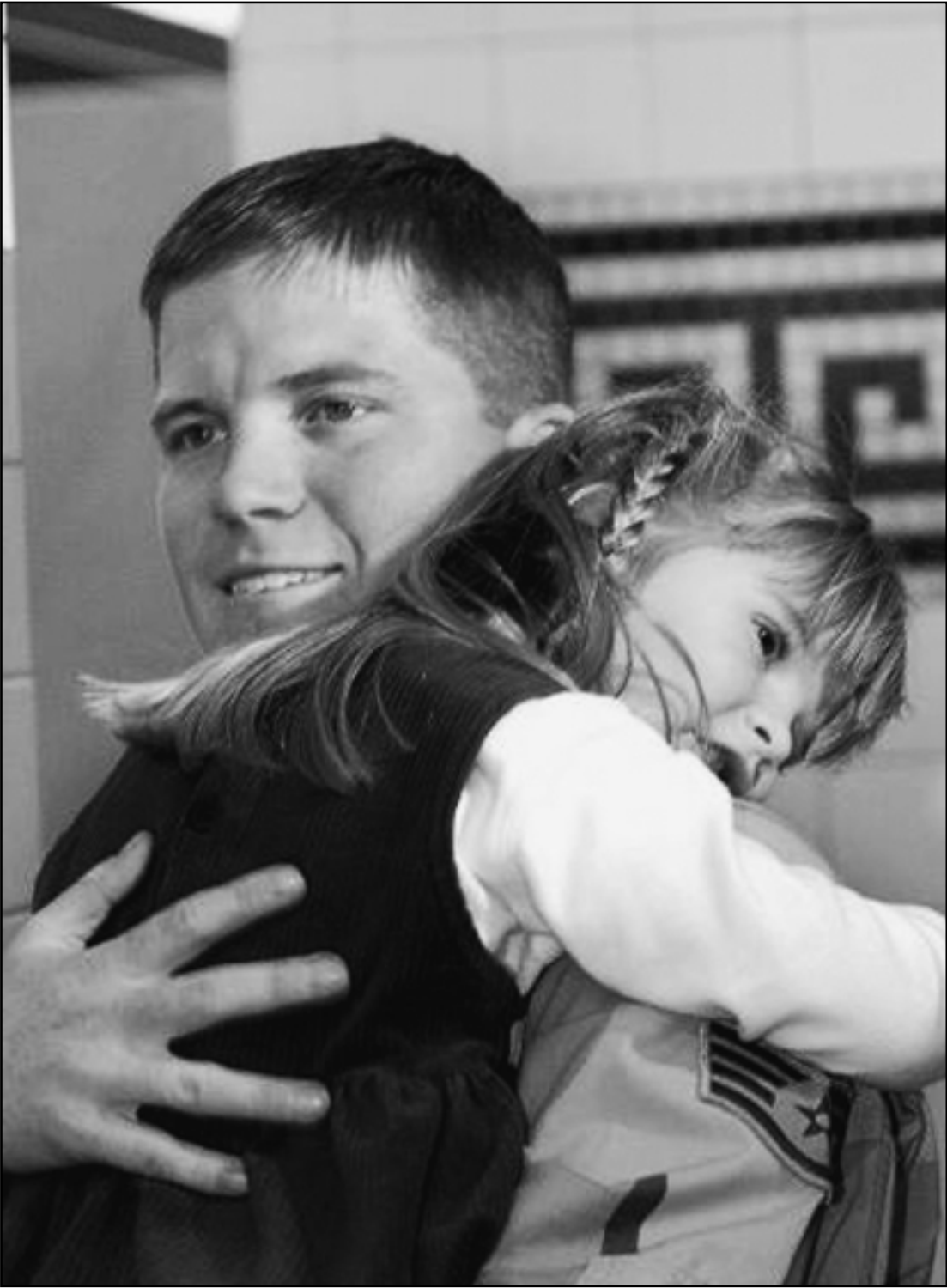
cookie. It makes them feel important and teaches them about family traditions.

- Children can become distressed during new activities so talk to your child beforehand about visits to Santa, outings or parties. Help prepare your child for visitors by bringing out the photo album and identifying the people he or she will be spending time with.
- Limit sugar and snacks.
- When it becomes obvious that your child has had enough excitement, remember to have quiet activities ready like soft music, storybooks, puzzles and quiet games to play. If you can’t find a quiet spot, bundle up and go for a walk.
- Deployed? Letters, phone calls and e-mail messages can help to keep you close. Read a holiday children’s book and record or videotape it for your child’s bedtime story.

Where children are concerned, keep it simple. Don’t forget to reinforce good behavior with lots of hugs, kisses and praise. The greatest gift you can give your child this holiday season is the gift of your time, attention and love.

Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service.

The greatest gift you can give your child this holiday season is the gift of your time, attention and love.



U.S. Air Force photo by Alex Dorgan-Ross  
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — Staff Sgt. Joe Neubaur holds his 4-year-old daughter, Katlyn, in the passenger terminal after returning from a three-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Neubaur is assigned to Dover’s 436th Aerial Port Squadron.

## Commanders’ Action Line



Col. Bonnie Cirrincione  
Commander 78th Air Base Wing

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage on the World Wide Web at [https:// www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm](https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm).

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.



Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam  
Commander Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

### Base working on electronic marquees

**Q:** Someone needs to do something about the electronic billboard across from Bldg. 207 and the Green Street Gate. It has been unreadable for at least three weeks. Thanks.

**A: Maj. Gen. Wetekam responds:** Thanks for your comments. While we’ve waited for the service contractor to work through their backlog and get someone to come fix the Green Street marquee sign, days have turned into weeks, so we’ve shut the sign down until it can be repaired. Part of the problem with all three of the outdoor signs on Robins is their age. They have exceeded their lifespan and we’ve held them together as best we can. Most of the time the signs can be fixed by our own civil engineer folks, using replacement parts the contractor leaves with us. This time, however, the Green Street sign panels will have to be taken to Florida for a week or more before they can be made operable.

We’re working to get the signs replaced all together, possibly this fiscal year if funding allows. In the meantime, problems with any of the signs can be reported to public affairs at 926-2137, who will put in a work order to CE. We’ll keep them up and running as long as weather, technology and spare parts allow.

### Prescription refills policy made clear

**Q:** I am an Air Force retiree and had to get a refill on a prescription that had zero refills. The pharmacy staff wouldn’t give me a refill and said that when my prescription got down to zero refills, I had to make an appointment with a doctor in order to refill my prescription.

I kind of see the reason to have a doctor appointment to get each prescription refilled when you get down to zero refills. They want me to wait a couple of days and make an appointment but they gave me a one-month courtesy refill. I am trying to figure out why I have to make a doctor’s appointment when I just saw my doctor. I

see no reason to make another appointment and wait a month.

This inflates the doctor’s workload and makes a hardship on the patient and the physician. Please explain the reason behind this policy.

**A: Col. Cirrincione responds:** Thank you for the opportunity to explain our prescription refill policy. Providers at the 78th Medical Group may write prescriptions with refills up to one year for maintenance medications.

Providers may choose to write prescription refills for a shorter period if the patient’s conditions warrant more frequent follow up.

When a patient has an appointment with the provider, at the interval determined by the provider, the provider and patient should review the prescriptions to be refilled in order to have medication until the next appointment.

The provider will then write the prescriptions that are needed. Patients have two options if they run out of medication before the next appointment. First, the

patient may call the appointment desk and ask for the provider to write a prescription for enough medication to get to the next appointment. Second, the patient may request a courtesy refill from the pharmacist.

Under a newly instituted program, the pharmacist may extend a prescription for up to a 60-day supply of maintenance medication, if the original prescription was written at the 78th Medical Group.

The pharmacist may extend the prescription only once. An appointment with the provider must be made for additional medication.

While this policy may reduce the time our providers have for new patients, we believe all our patients are worth this added protection, which ensures staying the course is best or allows an adjustment to new developments with the patient’s medical conditions, treatments, and prescriptions.

The policy also allows us to better control our medical costs, which every taxpayer appreciates.



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## ■ Robins hosts K-9 training conference

By Lanorris Askew  
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks has never talked to Staff Sgt. Travis Padgett, non-commissioned officer in charge of the military working dog section at Robins Air Force Base. Last month he and other members of the security forces unit hosted a three-day K-9 training conference where 50 agencies from various jurisdictions around the state came to be familiarized with techniques used by service canines. Padgett said the purpose of the three-day session, last held in 1996, was to familiarize the handlers as well as the canines with the techniques.

"This gives us a chance to network and know who is where and what capabilities they have. This type of event needs to happen every year, it is very beneficial," he said.

Representatives from the FBI, Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms gave presentations ranging from drug seizure to explosives location.

"They discussed how our canines fit into homeland defense," said Padgett.

The conference was not just presentations. The agents were able to take their dogs through scenarios resembling real-world situations such as drug sniffing.

In one scenario the dogs were taken into a room filled with mattresses and asked to "show me dope."

Padgett said this exercise enabled them to watch the dogs and the handlers perform their duties.

Officer Brice Barth and his dog Boomer of the Kennesaw Police took to the training like champs.

"We never miss an opportunity to train," said Barth. "I have thoroughly enjoyed this week especially having the other agencies here to share the experience. We always learn something new."

Other training included field training where the canines ran through an agility course and aggression training where they learned to subdue suspects.

Padgett said special training is given to those who wear the special attack suits so they do not harm themselves or the dogs.

"This training is very rewarding for us and the other agencies," Padgett said. "We have had a lot of positive feed back."

At the end of the training the dogs and their handlers received certificates, T-shirts and coffee mugs. The finale was a barbeque, but because of strictly enforced rules it wasn't shared with the dogs.



Padgett



1. Officer Wayne Fisher and Arno practice attack techniques on Greg Martin, drug dog handler and decoy with the Warner Robins Police Department. 2. Boomer searches for drugs in a stack of mattresses by the direction of Officer Brice Barth, Kennesaw Police. 3. Master Sgt. Omer Trudeau, training superintendent of operations support, instructs Benny and handler David Williams, Clayton County Police Department, while Staff Sgt. Brian Lowe waits for a practice run. 4. Army Sgt. Mark Gadsden, Ft. Benning, guides Bart over an agility obstacle.

*U.S. Air Force photos  
by Sue Sapp*



## TV SCHEDULE

Note the new show times on Sundays.

These shows will air on Cox Cable channel 15 and Watson Cable channel 15.

### Friday

**Robins Report:** 8 p.m. – News from around base.

**Around Robins:** 8:30 p.m. – Around Robins features a segment on chapel services and the ASIST program with Chaplain (Maj.) Jamie Braswell. There will also be a nutrition tip, a look at the Robins Family Support Center’s Family Day and a trot with the base riding club. Also, the Air Force Materiel Command Football Frenzy winner comes from Robins. Around Robins was there to see the smiling faces and catch the reaction of the recipient.

**Inside Robins:** 9 p.m. – On this week’s Inside Robins, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, talks about the his State of the Center Address.

### Sunday

1:30 p.m. - **Robins Report**  
2 p.m. - **Around Robins**  
2:30 p.m. - **Inside Robins**

### Monday

Noon - **Robins Report**  
12:30 p.m. - **Around Robins**  
1 p.m. - **Inside Robins**

## MOVIE SCHEDULE

**All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.**

*Tickets are \$3 for 12 and older, \$2 for ages 5-11.  
Visit the movie schedule online at <http://www.robins.af.mil/services/Events/TheaterSched.htm>.*



### Today — Ghost Ship (R)

Starring Gabriel Byrne and Alex Dimitriades.

In a remote region of the Bering Sea, a boat salvage crew discovers the eerie remains of a grand passenger liner thought lost for more than 40 years. Once onboard, the crew must confront the ship’s horrific past and face the ultimate fight for their lives. (strong violence/gore, language and sexuality)

**Saturday — Tuck Everlasting (PG)** Showtime starts at 2 p.m.

Starring Alexis Bledel and Ben Kingsley.

When Winnie is lost in the woods near home, she happens upon Jesse, a boy unlike any she’s ever met before. His family holds a powerful secret. Winnie must decide whether to return to her life or stay with her beloved Jesse and his family forever. (some violence)



**Saturday — The Wild Thornberrys Movie (PG)** Free admission with advance ticket sold Dec. 12-13.

Starring Rupert Everett, Lynn Redgrave, Marisa Tomei, Brenda Blethyn and Alfred Woodard.

The Wild Thornberry’s feature film finds one of America’s favorite animated families going on a wild adventure around the world. Now, 12-year old Eliza is in Africa where she meets a mysterious shaman who grants her the power to talk to animals. But there’s a catch – if she reveals her gift she will lose it forever. One day Eliza discovers that poachers plan to kill an elephant herd with an electrified fence, and she and Darwin, her pet chimp, must stop them.

**Submit planner information, honor rolls, features and bulletin board items to Rebecca Yull, Rev-Up associate editor, Bldg. 215, Room 106. Also e-mail at [rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil](mailto:rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil) or fax to 926-9597.**

## This week in history

**Dec. 13, 1973,** Spencer N. Roads, chief of the base education and training unit, received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, one of the highest awards that can be presented at Robins to a civilian employee



**Dec. 13, 1953,** part of the Robins Air Force Base water system was transferred to the City of Warner Robins. The evaluation of the property and the preparation of the deed were handled by the district engineer. The deed was signed in Washington, D.C.

## SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Youth Center 926-2110

The Boys and Girls Club of America “A Time for Smiles Campaign” is underway at the youth center. Families and organizations may nominate deserving children to receive toys this holiday season. Submit nominator’s name, unit and phone number by Monday. For more information, visit or call the center.

### Civilian Recreation

922-4415

Help make someone’s holiday a little happier by donating to the civilian recreation canned food drive through Wednesday. Each year donations are used to create holiday food baskets to distribute to deserving families of Robins Air Force Base. This program benefits both military and civilian employees and their families. Collection boxes will be placed throughout services facilities and will be emptied each Friday.

Collection boxes for areas other than services facilities can be placed upon request. If you know a family that would benefit from receiving a holiday food basket, confidential applications will be accepted at the civilian recreation office, Bldg. 767. Baskets will be delivered Thursday through Dec. 22. Volunteers are needed to help put baskets together and make deliveries. For more information, contact Lynne Brackett, civilian recreation manager, at 922-4415.

•••

The last night of Bingo in 2002 at the base restaurant will be Dec. 22. Participants will enjoy an evening of special payouts, door prizes and a customer appreciation buffet for \$1. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and games will begin at 7 p.m.

### Enlisted Club 926-4515

The Press Box is open for express lunch Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and for dinner 6-9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Specials include two-for-one prime rib for \$16.95 every week. Press Box will be closed today and Saturday, Dec. 20, 21, 27 and 28. Reservations are welcome, but not



required. For holiday closures, go the services Web site at [www.robins.af.mil/services](http://www.robins.af.mil/services).

### Wynn Dining Facility

926-6596

All active duty and retired military members and their families are may attend a traditional Christmas meal at Wynn Dining Facility. The meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 25. Items will be priced a la Carte plus a surcharge on the total meal.

Spouse and dependent children of active duty enlisted members in pay grades E-1 through E-4 are not required to pay the surcharge. Subsistence in-kind enlisted members will not pay for their meals, but their family members (other than spouse or dependent children) and guests will pay the standard rate. Military members who do not live in the dorms and retirees planning to attend are asked to notify the dining hall at number above no later then Dec. 20 so food may be prepared accordingly. For a look at the menu, visit the services Web site at [www.robins.af.mil/services](http://www.robins.af.mil/services). Go to “Food Service” and click on the Christmas Menu.

### Information, Tickets and Travel

926-2945

ITT hours will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Dec. 20 to accommodate United Parcel Service customers wishing to send holiday packages.

### Officers’ Club 926-2670

New Year’s Eve tickets are on sale for \$30 per person. Featured entertainers will be Tommy West and the Sensations from 8

## Around the Air Force

**Financial hardship** is a serious problem for Air Force junior enlisted troops. To equip young airmen with information about personal finances, the Air Force recommends:

- Supervisors take an active interest in their troops’ financial well-being and stress the importance of the financial responsibility block during performance feedback sessions;
- Airmen who are having financial difficulty seek help at the base family support center.

**In its 2003 edition,** The Princeton Review’s Best 345 Colleges guide rates the Air Force Academy No. 1 in “Their Students Never Stop Studying.”

p.m. to 1 a.m. and Total Sound Productions in the main lounge from 8 p.m. to midnight. For patrons’ convenience, 20 rooms will be available at lodging. Reservations for these rooms can be made through the officers’ club cashier.

### Aero Club 926-4867

During December, the aero club will conduct Christmas light flights. Qualified commercial pilots will escort families on flights to see area Christmas lights from the sky. Cost is \$60 for up to three people. Reservations are required. For more information, call 926-4867.

### Outdoor Adventure

926-6527 or 926-4001

A Cherokee casino adventure trip has been scheduled for Feb. 7-9. Cost is \$195 and includes transportation and two nights’ accommodations. Transportation will leave at 4 p.m. Register by Jan. 6. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. For more information, call Michelle North at 926-6527.

•••

Register by Jan. 9 for a North Carolina ski adventure with outdoor adventure will be Jan. 31 through Feb. 2. Cost is \$325 double occupancy and includes transportation, ski lift tickets and two nights’ accommodations. Transportation leaves Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. from the enlisted club. For more information and additional pricing, call Michelle North at 926-6527.

### Pizza Depot 926-0188

Pizza Depot is giving away a bike. Now through Dec. 31 customers who purchase \$5 in food can enter the drawing by writing their name and phone number on the back of the receipt and placing it in the drop box. No purchase necessary with an index card delivered to the 78th Services Division Marketing Office, located in Bldg. 983 by Dec. 20.

•••

The Pizza Depot December Edge coupon special is two 16-inch, one-topping pizzas for \$14, available for on-base delivery only. Coupon expires Dec. 31.

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

**Robins Air Force Base Family Support Center-sponsored classes, workshops and seminars are open to all Team Robins Plus personnel and their eligible family members. Absences from duty sections to attend FSC offerings are the responsibility of the employee to coordinate with his/her supervisor. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration.**

**The FSC is located on Ninth Street in Bldg. 794, across the street just before the Robins Enlisted Club. Hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information, or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.**

### Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia, a non-profit organization funded by the United Way, will conduct a free money and credit management workshop today, 1-4 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 127. A comprehensive workbook is provided to all attendees. Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented at this workshop. Assistance will be provided in the development of budgets and savings plans so that financial goals may be realized. This workshop is open to all Team Robins Plus members.

Call 926-1256 for a reservation.

### Bundles for babies

The Air Force Aid Society will conduct a Bundles For Babies class Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon, Bldg. 700, Room 180.

This class is specifically designed to assist new parents. It consists of an educational session by the Family Advocacy Educational Development Intervention specialist, who covers topics such as baby’s brain development and how to stimulate that growth; personal financial program manager on financial matters concerning a newborn; as well as an overall briefing on all the program opportunities the Air Force Aid Society offers. At the end of the session, a bundle is presented, compliments of the Air Force Aid Society. This program is open to all active duty Air Force members and their spouses, who are expecting a child, regardless of rank or number of children in the family.

To register, call the center at 926-1256.

### Resume research, writing

A workshop on resume research and writing will be conducted Wednesday, 9a.m. to noon, Bldg. 905, Room 138.

Many people launch into resume writing before preparing, including researching the employment market or their skills. This class is designed to cover resume writing beyond the basic mechanics by dissecting the various parts of a resume.

### Smooth move

The next Smooth Move workshop is Wednesday, 8-11 a.m., in Bldg. 945, Robins Family Support Center annex.

This program is designed for Air Force members on the move. It is three hours of information on how to get from here to there with the least amount of hassle, frustration and stress.

### UNISERV TSP briefing

The Personal Financial Management program is offering a briefing on UNISERV Thrift Saving Plan Dec. 20, 1-2:30 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 127.

Everyone is encouraged to investigate this great investment opportunity. UNISERV TSP contributions are before tax money, a significant advantage over regular mutual funds, and deposits accrue earnings tax free until withdrawn. Consequently, this is a super investment vehicle. To educate individuals, the booklet “Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services” is being distributed through the units. However, if you have not received your copy the web site [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) has the summary, forms, and a question and answer section to assist you.

### Toys for tots

19th Air Refueling Group Toys for Tots boxes are located in orderly rooms and at the base exchange. For additional information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hartley, 327-2958.

### Morale call program

Standard morale calls are conducted over the DSN with a regular telephone. The military member provides the DSN number, where he/she is located, to the family member. The family member calls the FSC at 926-1256 to receive a control number. The standard telephonic morale calls may be conducted at home after the control number is received.

Once a convenient time for both the military member and the family member is chosen, the family member calls the base operator at 926-1110 to make the morale call. Please choose a time wherein both parties can complete the entire 15-minute conversation within one call. The videophone morale call must be conducted at the FSC. Videophone Morale Calls are made using the VIATV system.

### Video phone

Do you have a spouse that is TDY/on a remote assignment and would like to see them before they get back? You can, without leaving Robins AFB. We have video-telephone capability to many installations around the world. Call to make an appointment.



# Golf course to undergo renovations

**John Anderson**  
**Golf Course Manager**

The coming year will be an exciting one for the Pine Oaks Golf Club. The club will rebuild all 20 greens on the course. There will be some new tee boxes and renovations to others.

The following is a list of questions members might have along with answers. Those with more questions should call 926-4103.

**When is the construction going to occur?**

- Demolition of the back 9 greens will begin in February.
- Demolition of the front 9 greens will not begin until April.
- Construction of the greens will be completed in May.
- Grow-in of the grass will begin in May.
- Projected opening of the new greens is Aug. 1.

**Will the course be totally closed from April to August?**

No. There will be temporary greens, which will be overseeded with Rye grass to try and make them as good as possible.

**What will happen with my annual green fees?**

When a person signs up or renews his annual green fees in April he will receive a 25 percent discount for the year. Cart fees will also be discounted to \$6 for 18 holes and \$4 for 9 holes during the time we are on

temporary greens.

**What happens if I want to drop my annual green fees and rejoin in August after you reopen?**

Upon reopening of our new greens we will have a fee increase. All persons signing up for annual green fees in August will begin paying the new fee. All persons who sign up in April will pay the reduced rate of 25 percent off through March 2004. In April 2004 everyone will be paying the new fee. It will cost you less money to stay with us through the renovations.

**What other benefit will I have for staying an annual green fees player?**

Members will have discounted rates at the local courses in the area. A list of the courses and their discounts will be available in the pro shop. However, you must show your membership card to receive the discount.

**How will the temporary greens affect Handicaps?**





Players cannot post a score played on temporary greens. You may post scores from other golf courses. As far as handicap fees, the Georgia State Golf renewal time is in January. The fee would be \$24 in Jan and \$20 in September and would run out in December.

**What will you have for guests?**

We will reduce green fees 40 percent and guest cart fees will go from \$10 to \$7. The 9 hole cart fee will be \$4.50.



The Rev-up has searched high and low to find a handful of football nuts, worthy of calling themselves football experts. Each week during the football season these so-called "experts" will use their knowledge to take a shot at picking the winner in five featured professional football games and one college game. Throughout the football season, the Rev-up will keep a running total of the wins and losses for each expert.

Who's on top?							
Player	W	L	T				
Fidler	44	33	1	<b>Airman 1st Class Tiara Smith</b>	<b>Tim Kurtz</b>	<b>Capt. Paul Fidler</b>	<b>Senior Airman Mark Haines</b>
Kurtz	42	35	1				
Haines	40	37	1				
Smith	37	40	1				
This week's games				My picks:	My picks:	My picks:	My picks:
Chargers vs. Bills				Chargers	Chargers	Bills	Chargers
Raiders vs. Dolphins				Raiders	Raiders	Dolphins	Raiders
Redskins vs. Eagles				Eagles	Eagles	Eagles	Eagles
Chiefs vs. Broncos				Chiefs	Broncos	Chiefs	Chiefs
Packers vs. 49ers				Packers	Packers	49ers	49ers
Cincinnati vs. N. Texas				North Texas	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati

## Last week's results

Wow! Did anyone think Kurtz would ever fall from first? Either he's thinking too hard or not hard enough. Fidler took the lead this week having gotten through with 5-1 while Kurtz gave him the lead barely surviving at 2-4. Smith performed as usual with 3-3 and Haines had a nice showing with 4-2.

However, this isn't the big leagues. I'm sure they're all happy it's not because they would be sore now. I hope none of them have time invested in any fantasy football leagues because it might be a waste since none of them can pick well consistently. For the spectators, though, there's never a dull moment. Let's see how these picks do for next week.

# SPORTS BRIEFS

## Outdoor Adventure

926-6527 or 926-4001

The indoor fitness center pool will be open Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m., for family swimming. The pool is closed the first and third Sundays of each month. Fitness center eligibility requirements must be met. Children 16 years and younger require parental supervision at the pool. For more information, contact outdoor recreation at 926-4001.

## Fitness Center

926-2128

Weight lifters can strive to "Bench the Bomber" through Dec. 31. Individuals bench in any variety — military, decline or incline — to reach

185,000 pounds.

Participants accumulate pounds lifted for the entire month by either using FitLinxx or a spreadsheet. For more information, call the fitness center.

...

The center will be holding a Club Robins Mini-Aerobathon Sunday, 3-5 p.m. Activities will include free workouts, door prizes and refreshments.

## Robins Lanes

926-2112

Enjoy the long lunch special Dec. 23. Bowl three games for \$3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

...

Tired of just watching football? Get into the action Jan. 2. Roll three games with football rules 1-5 p.m. The highest score will win a

bowling pass valued at \$35.



# HONOR ROLLS

**Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command announces its civilian employees of the quarter for July through September.**

**Patsy Roland**, AFRC organizational manager in the directorate of plans and programs, was selected in the GS-11 and above category. She provides policy and guidance to develop organizational change request submissions to Headquarters Air Force. In support of the Air Force chief of staff's new combat wing structure, Roland submitted more than 260 manpower actions and developed new organizational charts for the 35 wings depicting the new structure. The commander of Air Force Reserve Command used the charts to brief four-star generals at CORONA in October.

**Suzanne Mixon**, chief of Reserve benefits and entitlements in the directorate of personnel, was selected in the GS-10 and below category. She provides direction to all levels of command concerning benefit and entitlement laws. During the award period, Mixon processed more than 850 inquiries and sanctuary waiver packages. She also coordinated a change to the Travel Budget Accounting System and developed a review and suspense control system for sanctuary waiver packages. She created a database product to keep track of reservists pending demobilization who invoke sanctuary protection and await assignment instructions. She assisted the community by volunteering at a local middle school to help with field trips and by becoming a charter member of Hospice of Houston County.

●●●

**Lynn H. Hogg**, MC-130E/H/P integrated product team chief, recently received the Air Force Exemplary Civilian Service Award. Hogg distinguished herself in the execution of more than \$5 million in defense emergency relief funds in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while maintaining MC-130E/H/P mission capable rate of 80 percent.

●●●

**Larry T. Layfield**, chief, MH-53J/M integrated product team recently received the Air Force Exemplary Civilian Service Award. Layfield implemented depot agile repair teams at all MH-53J/M bases boosting mission capable rates from 47.5 to 80.9 percent to meet critical special operation mission requirements.

**Avionics Management Directorate, LY, names its fourth quarter military award winners.**

**Capt. Sean C. Wade**, avionics support and analysis branch, was selected as the Avionics Company Grade

Officer. Wade has been on station three months and has made a tremendous impact. He was selected as the Avionics Support Division LEAN change agent, based on experience gained during his previous Education with Industry tour. Wade created a management plan of foreign military sales backorders and implemented an easy-to-follow policy. He conducted one-on-one training for item managers and developed a list of contract production/repair assets. As the acting vice president of the Robins Logistics Officer Association, he rejuvenated the chapter by developing plans, running advertisements and establishing set meeting times.

**Master Sgt. Timothy B. Jones**, precision attack equipment specialist, was named Avionics Senior Noncommissioned Officer. Jones is the top systems-level technical advisor to the Precision Attack System Program Office director, representing more than 300 depot, field-level and contractor personnel at 42 locations in 16 countries. He supported \$3.4 billion of equipment and 430 combat aircraft while managing 47 system technical orders. Jones was key in preparing LY for the Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program by aiding in more than 80 security inspections. He led the implementation of multiple reliability-enhancing initiatives for the Low Altitude Navigation/Targeting Infrared for Night targeting pod by adapting depot-level alignment for field use, projecting a 15

percent reduction in nose section depot repairs. He mentors three youth members of

Ebenezer Baptist Church, taught basic computer skills for a youth group and per-

formed lawn care for senior church members. He also worked to raise funds for the

Houston County High School Summer Girl's Basketball Program.

# CIVLIAN RETIREES

**The following are the retirees for the end of November through the beginning of December.**

- James A. Beene**, LBIL
- Larry G. Berry**, 78th OSS/OSAB
- Lottie Butts**, LBRSI
- Solomon Graddick Jr.**, 78th CES/CEFO
- Rita Hall**, LNRC
- Paul Lee**, MAIEWF
- Herbert J. Mercado**, MAN
- Jean G. Phillips**, MA-2
- Earl J. Pilgrim**, MABJD
- Ernest A. Provens**, LKGP
- John A. Stoica**, AFRC/SCOMG
- Charles W. Wright**, MAIBPL

# ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

## Family holiday caroling

The Girl Scouts are having a family caroling event Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting at the Robins Elementary School cafeteria. For more information, contact Dora Waite at 328-1061.

## New team sponsors family

The newly formed Maintenance Directorate employees team is sponsoring two families for the holiday. J.C. Taylor and his family, who have had a very tough year complete with injury inflicting burglars and a house fire, will enjoy a merry Christmas thanks to the directorate’s team. Airman 1st Class Leah Polhemus and her family who struggle to make ends meet will enjoy present under the tree and a fine family feast as well.

## Holiday Tea

The Robins Air Force Base Officers’ Spouses’ Club will be hosting a holiday tea at 10 a.m. Dec. 19 in the officers’ club ballroom.

There will be an ornament exchange. If interested in joining the game, bring a \$10 ornament.

Spouses of active duty or Reserve officers may attend. No Reservations are necessary.

## Holiday morale calls

The base video teleconferencing center will provide health, morale and welfare calls throughout the holiday season for military members who want to communicate with family members overseas or in the continental

United States via video and voice capability.

Multipoint video calls can be made during normal working hours up to 30 minutes each.

Mission-related conferences will take precedence over morale calls.

Contact Robert Bentley at 926-3637 for information and to schedule calls.

## Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will be closed for the holidays Dec.

20 through Jan. 8.

For more information, call 923-1686.

## Christmas tree round-up

Recycle your Christmas tree during “The Great Christmas Tree Round-Up” Jan. 4 on Maple Street in Warner Robins. The event, sponsored by Flint Energies and Asplundh Tree Expert Co., and hosted by Keep Warner Robins Beautiful, will run from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Free tree seedlings will be given in exchange for Christmas trees. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

The Robins point of contact is Linda Larson, Solid Waste/Toxics Program Manager, 926-1197 ext. 137.

## Program helps area children

The Coats for Kids program is a program that helps children of all ages keep warm with the help of the

community. There will be a bin located in the Robins Air Force Base Exchange for all to drop off any coats they would like to donate. All sizes and colors of any sort of coat is needed and appreciated. Direct questions to Senior Airman Cristea Parrish at 327-5312 or Staff Sgt. Alicia Preston at 327-8056.

## Christmas luncheon

The annual American Society of Military

Comptrollers Christmas Luncheon will be held Monday at the Smith Community Center ballroom from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For those who wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 non-gender specific gift already wrapped. Along with the gift exchange, there will be entertainment, fun and games, and door prizes.

Tickets are \$8. Reply by today.

Contact Cindy Branham at 327-1417.

# LEAVE/ TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.

- **Jacquelyn Hill**, Maintenance Directorate. Point of contact is Betty Branch, 926-8802.

*Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Rebecca Yull via fax at 926-9597, or e-mail at rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.*



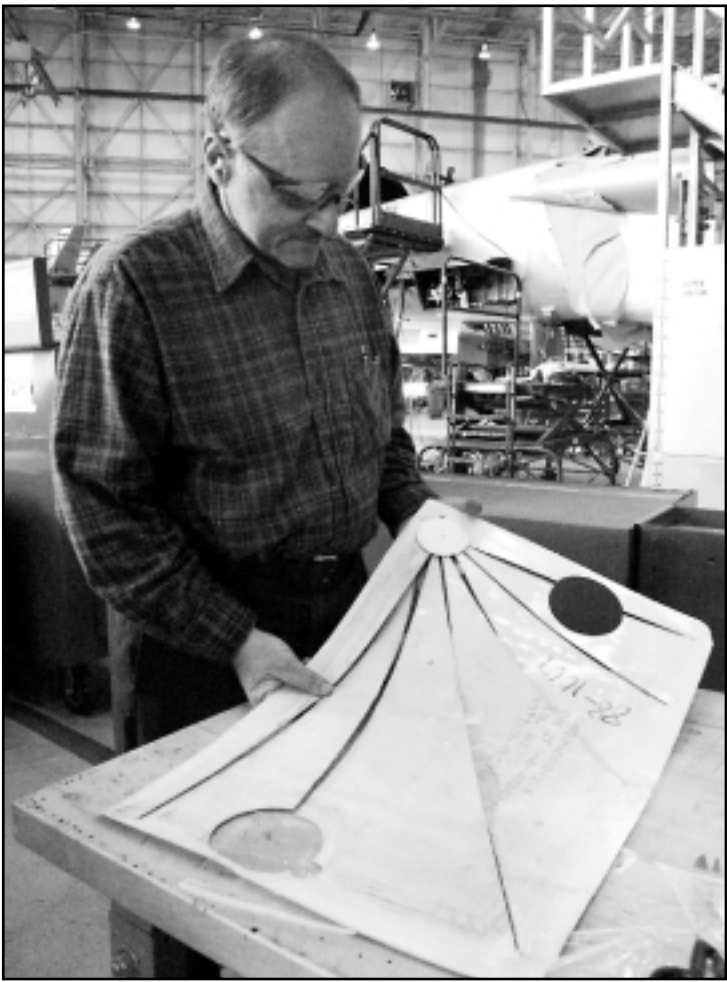
# All in a day’s work

■ Bob Zampa  
■ F-15 sheet metal worker  
■ F-15 maintenance production branch

“I’m a sheet metal worker but today I’m working on an F-15 fuel tank backing board. Sometimes they tear when pulled out so instead of replacing it with a whole new backing board, I repair them.

“I’ve always liked working with my hands. My dad had a metal and fiberglass shop in the basement when I was young. I went to college and studied sociology but went back to working with my hands. I just like working with metal.

“I’m sort of a jack of all trades; master of none. I also play guitar and own about 20 antique cars.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

## CHAPEL SERVICES

**Catholic** Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Fridays at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

**Protestant** services take place every Sunday at: 8 a.m. inspirational; and 11 a.m. traditional.

**Jewish** service time is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the synagogue in Macon.

**Islamic** Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is each Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

**The chapel helps with**

**any spiritual needs that arise.**

**For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.**

# Tree safety keeps holiday happy

Tom Kennedy  
Fire Department

Christmas is the time of year for blessings past and future, which includes family gatherings for a festive time by all. While Christmas is beautiful, without caution this and other holidays could be tragic.

One of the best-known symbols of the Christmas season is the Christmas tree. Artificial trees come in many shapes and sizes to suit almost any taste. If you already own a tree or are getting ready to buy one, look for a label certifying the tree flame resistant and for use indoors. A tree can be both the center of the holiday festivities and the center of many holiday fires. A flame resistant tree isn't as likely to go up in smoke.

Only artificial trees are allowed in base facilities and must be UL Listed with a fire resistive rating. Personnel residing in military family housing can have live trees, but only if they maintain them safely.

### Choosing a tree

The most important aspect to consider when buying a live Christmas tree is freshness. The best way to ensure getting the freshest tree possible is going to a tree farm and having one cut. If buying a previously cut tree, check for freshness by bending some needles. If they break, the tree is too dry. Gently tap the end of the tree trunk on the ground; if a lot of needles fall, it is also too dry. Don't depend on how green a tree is to judge its freshness, because trees are sprayed to enhance their color.

Once a tree has been brought home, cut the bottom of the tree at an angle about one inch above the original cut. Place the tree in a tree holder and securely anchor it inside the stand. When setting up the tree at home, place the tree away from the fireplace, away from traffic areas, away from furnace radiators or other heat sources. Do not block exits. Also be sure to remember to check the water level daily and keep the water level full at all times.

Never place lit candles on or near a Christmas tree or around decorations. Check



tree lighting sets, electric candles, similar holiday lighting equipment, as well as extension cords, for frayed wiring, loose connections and broken sockets. Use only lighting equipment carrying the UL label. Remember, unlabeled materials, domestic and foreign, seldom meet safety standards. Use indoor lights indoors, and outdoor lights outdoors; never mix the two sets.

Unplug lights and decorations before you leave the house or retire for the night. Never leave lights unattended. Keep lights at least 6 inches from all combustibles and never allow light bulbs to come in contact with combustible materials.

### Safe decorating

Use only decorations that are fire resistant and bear a label stating so. Do not use spray snow, angel hair or Styrofoam; these substances can produce chemical reactions that are highly dangerous. However, if a spray snow is used, follow the container directions carefully.

Decorations such as paper, flowers, tinsel, streamers and scenery should have a flame resistant rating prior to use. All decorations should be kept to a minimum. Ensure decorations do not interfere with fire protection systems.

If an incident should occur, remember to dial 911 to report an emergency. Direct questions to the base fire prevention office at 926-2145.

3x21  
Morgan Tire  
56046901

3x10  
Armed Forces  
55829401